

# Karen Romano Young

[APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov).

Dear Governor Malloy and the government of the state of Connecticut,

I'm writing to you today to beg: Please don't cut library funding. On the contrary, increase existing library funding and develop new libraries and library services.

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I first discovered the library at age four when my parents returned to the U.S. from a stint in the Army in Germany. I still remember the joy of entering a room full of books in English. We used to walk to the library (four kids and my mom) and drag home a wagonful of books. The best hours then — and, with my own children later, and now with my grandchildren — are the ones after a trip to the library, when everyone settles down with their pile. The opportunity to read and to borrow is an extraordinary one — and should be a right of all children and the parents who desire to raise them to be literate, creative, hard-working members of society.

As a young teen I volunteered in my local library, then (at 16) worked for pay until I was 20. I had a new opportunity to learn what libraries meant to people and to see all the different ways they are used.

I became the author of several dozen children's books, including a new novel about a girl whose mother is a librarian. As an adult I rely on my local library and on the system that links me to others around the state. As I sit working in the children's room, or in a carrel in the reference room, or at the computer lab on the main floor, I see so many people who rely on library services — from tiny children discovering books to teens finding after-school homework assistance, adults doing job-searches, and retirees learning the ways of the internet.

Tell me this — where would they go without the library? Libraries are irreplaceable supports of community, civic responsibility, and learning. Fund them and you can never be sorry.

**Karen Romano Young**

Yours,

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